

DESCRIPTION OF A RECENTLY NEW OYSTER-CATCHER (*HÆMATOPUS GALAPAGENSIS*) FROM THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS.

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Hæmatopus galapagensis Ridgw.

? *Hæmatopus palliatus* SUND., P. Z. S., 1871, 125.—SCL. & SALV. P. Z. S., 1870, 323 (Indefatigable I).—SALV., Trans. Zool. Soc., ix, pt. ix., 1875, 502 (Indefatigable I).
Hæmatopus galapagensis RIDGW., Auk, iii, July, 1886, 331.

SP. CHAR.—Somewhat similar to *H. palliatus* TEMM., but differing as follows: Back, scapulars, and wings sooty black, instead of grayish brown; shorter upper tail-coverts entirely black, the longer ones white varied toward tips with blackish (the median coverts barred or transversely spotted); under primary coverts chiefly black; white of the wing much more restricted. Wing 10.00; tail, 3.80–3.90; culmen, 3.12–3.42; depth of bill at thickest portion in front of nostril, .50; tarsus, 2.12–2.20; middle toe, 1.65. (Type, No. 101,319, U. S. Nat. Mus., Chatham I., Galapagos; Dr. Wm. H. Jones, U. S. N.).

HAB.—Chatham Island, Galapagos group.

This very distinct species, although much more closely related to *H. palliatus*, bears in some respects a greater general resemblance to *H. leucopus* GARNOT, from the Straits of Magellan district. Through the courtesy of the officers of the American Museum of Natural History, in New York City, and of the Boston Society of Natural History, I am able to make a direct comparison with the latter, and therefore express the diagnostic characters of the two species in a synoptical table, in which is included also the distinctive characters of *H. palliatus*.

a¹. Breast white, like abdomen, etc.; bill stout, its greatest depth forward of nostril exceeding .45 of an inch; middle toe, with claw, more than 1.75.

b¹. Back, scapulars, and wing-coverts grayish brown; upper tail-coverts entirely white; under primary coverts almost entirely white. Wing, 9.75–11.00, culmen 3.00–3.70, greatest depth of bill .48–.55; tarsus, 2.05–2.55; middle toe (without claw), 1.20–1.55. *Hab.*, Atlantic coast of America, from Nova Scotia to Patagonia, and Pacific coast, from Lower California to Chili.

H. palliatus Temm.

b². Back, scapulars, and wing-coverts sooty black; shorter upper tail-coverts entirely black, the larger ones white, varied at ends with blackish; under primary coverts chiefly black. Wing about 10.00;* culmen 3.12–3.42, greatest depth of bill, forward of nostril, .50; tarsus, 2.12–2.20; middle toe, 1.65.

Hab., Galapagos (Chatham Island).....*H. galapagensis* Ridgw.

a². Breast entirely black. Bill very slender, its greatest depth, forward of the nostril, not exceeding .40 of an inch; middle toe, with claw, much less than 1.75.

Back, scapulars, and wing-coverts sooty black, with a slight greenish gloss; uppertail-coverts (except shorter median ones) entirely white; under primary coverts, also the most of the remaining portion of the under side of the wing, uniform black. Wing, 10.00–10.60; culmen, 3.00–3.05, greatest depth of bill, forward of nostril, .38–.40; tarsus, 1.75–1.95; middle toe, 1.20–1.30. *Hab.*, Tierra del Fuego*H. leucopus* Garn.

* Two of the three specimens are moulting the primaries.

The three specimens upon which the new species is founded were collected on Chatham Island, Galapagos, August 16, 1884, by Dr. William H. Jones, U. S. N., of the U. S. S. Wachusett, whose memoranda relative to them are as follows:—

No. 101,319 (collector's No. 63), adult: Bill, red; iris, golden yellow; eyelids, red; feet, pale flesh-color. Length (before skinning), 18 inches; extent, 32.

No. 101,321 (collector's No. 63), adult: Bill, dark red; iris, bright golden yellow; eyelids, bright red; feet, pale flesh-color. Length, $17\frac{1}{4}$; extent, $32\frac{1}{2}$.

No. 101,320 (collector's No. 65), immature: Bill, red, barely black toward tip; iris, golden yellow; lids, reddish; feet, "slate or grayish." Length, $18\frac{1}{4}$; extent, 33.